

A
P V B L I K E
DECLARATION.

Made by the Vnited Protestant Princes
Electors and other Princes, States and
Lords, of the HOLIE
EMPIRE,

Thereby shewing for what causes and reasons,
they are moued to ioyne together in a straight Vnitie
and Alliance, to Aide and Assist the Princes Electors
of BRANDENBURGH and the
PALSGRAVE:

In the Possession of the Dukedomes, Countryes and
Dominions of Gulike, Cleaue, and
BERGE.

Translated out of the Dutch Copie, printed at Amsterdam
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L O N D O N,

Printed for IOHN BUDGE, and are to be sold at his
shop in Britanes Burse. 1610.

A
PUBLIC
DECLARATION

Made by the United Protestant Princes
Electors and other Princes, Bishops and
Lords, of the Holy
Empire;

Thereby shewing for what causes and reasons,
they are moved to join together in a League and Union
and Alliance, to defend the Protestant Religion
of Brandenburg and the
Palatinate;

In the Possession of the Dukedoms, Counties and
Dominions of the Elector, and



Printed by W. Stansfeld, at the
British Museum, 1753.

Printed by John Bower, at the
British Museum, 1753.

REASONS MOVING
the vnited Protestants, Princes E-
lectors, and other Princes, Lords and
States of the whole Empire, to ioyne to-
gether to assist the Prince Elector of Branden-
burg and the Palsegraue, in the possessions of the
Dukedomes and Dominions of Gulicke,
Cleue and Berge.



We the vnited Protestant Princes
Electors, & others &c. send greeting
with all obedience, offer of service,
friendship, fauor, and grace first to
the Romane Emperours Majesty,
our most gracious Lord and soue-
raigne, and to all other Christian
Potentates, Electors, Princes, Prelates, Barons,
Lords, Knights, Cities, Townes, and to euery man
both within and without the Dominion and Country
of Germany, of what estate, quality or condition soe-
uer they be, certifying the said Emperours royall Ma-
testie, and all and euery one of them, according to their
estates and qualitie.

That although in this our native Countrey of
Germany, by the consent and agreement of the head,
and particular members thereof, many wholesome,
good, and profitable ordinances, and among them also

a common and religious peace is established; and for the better observation and maintenance thereof hereafter, openly published and proclaimed: to this end specially, that, not onely iustice, as the foundation of good Governement, but also inward loue, peace, and vnitie might be vpheld and maintained; wherein the Emperors Maiestie, as well as all Princes Electors, Princes and members of the holy Empire, openly and faithfully promised and bound themselves together, That none of them, of what estate or quality soener they were, for any cause whatsoever: nor vpon any outward shew or ground that might be made or deuised, should or would make warre, trouble, molest, ber, robbe, spoile, ransacke, besiege, nor secretly conspire or make aliances or compacts against any others of the said State and holy Empire. And also that no man should by force of armes dispossesse, or violently take from any other, any of their possessions, hereditary or committed vnto them in custody, whether they be Townes, Castles, Villages, Churches, Cloysters, Cluysen, Tinsen, Reuenues, Tenths, moveable or vnmoueable goods, Royalties, Jurisdictions, Rights, Signeories, Lordships, Toles, Waters, Debowes, or any other their propertie and lawfull Dominions, none excepted: nor once more nor stir their Tenants and Subiects to rise by against them in armes, or to shew them any vnnaturall disobedience: But that every man should suffer each other to enioy and possesse his owne peaceably and quietly, without any molestation or trouble, and by no meanes to endure that any man (submitting himselfe to law and iustice) should by force be put from his right, nor any wayes impeached in his honour, priuiledge and freedome (although there is sufficient provision made by former lawes concerning the points aforesaid, against all those

those that shall in any wise whatsoeuer doe contrary to the same) That then the towne of the holy Empire should wyne together, and by force of armes ayd, assist, helpe, defend and maintaine the parties or Townes, &c. in their right; and withstand the violence and oppression, by such parties vsed, as seeke to doe contrary thereunto.

But for that within certaine yeares soe past (as experience sufficiently sheweth) such Statutes of the holy Empire (which truly in themselves are very commendable, and made to a good end and purpose) and especially the penalties therein set downe for the execution thereof; are partly hardly taken and misconstred, and partly obstinately and wilfully broken and not obserued: and that the parties grieved and oppressed are neyther aided, assisted, comforted nor relieved, how earnestly, submissiue and publicly soeuer they haue sued and complained: whereof hath ensued, that such oppressions and misdemeanours in the holy Empire, the longer, the more haue increased: whereby vntill prouident care be specially had therein, (if we should any longer wincke thereat, and by Gods helpe, by our Assemblies and meetings together, not take some good and speedy orders to stay and prevent the same) in the end certainly there would ensue an vtter ouerthrowing, and subuersion of all such wholesome Statutes and Ordinances, and of the common peace and tranquillity of the holy Empire.

We therefore in the name of Almighty God, for the maintenance and aduancement of his godly Cause, the vpholding of iustice, and the furtherance of peace and vnty, haue already for certain yeares vnted and ioyned our selues together, thereby to intertaine a greater, nearer and faithfuller combination and contract of friendshippe; and that in no sort, nor by no meanes,

meanes, to the hinderance or molestation of the Ro-
mane Emperours Maiestie, our most gracious Lord
and Soueraigne, to whom we are lawfully bound to
shew all dutifull and submissive obedience, nor of any
members of the Empire (that shew themselves con-
formable vnto the Statutes and Ordinances afores-
said) whereunto we all together, and every one in par-
ticular, with all friendship, fauour, grace, and neigh-
bourly good will are bound and obliged, nor also to any
man in particular, and much lesse to the breaking
of any of the Constitutions of the said holy Empire:
but much rather for the maintenance thereof, and for
the more assured vpholding of better peace, quiet-
ness and unity, in such manner and forme, as the like
contracts and combinations of amity haue heretofore
bene made and obserued by our ancestors and fore-
fathers of famous memory, in regard of the great loue
and affection which they beare vnto their naturall
Country.

Therefore we most humbly require and beseech
the Emperours Soueraigne Maiestie, and all other
Kings, Princes, Electors, Bishops, Knights, &c. in ge-
nerall, and every one in particular, if it perchance (as
we vnderstand) his Maiestie, or they should be already
perswaded (by the meanes and deuises of turbulent,
envious, and braggart persons) or hereafter might be
leduced to beleue that such our Assemblies and vni-
tings, were made, done or tended to the contempt or
dispising of the Imperiall Maiestie, or for the suppres-
sion of the Romish Religion, or specially for the dis-
pulling, subuerting and present oppugning of ancient
Jurisdictions, to the great hinderance of Knights and
Gentlemen, to whom the benefite and properties
thereof, haue vntill this time belonged and appertai-
ned; to take and draw them from thence, and to put and
turne

turne them to their owne proper uses. That it would please them not to give any credite unto any such false and untrue suggestions, and slanderous calumniationes; but rather to assure themselves; that it is done by us onely of mere and verie fidelity, love, and affection to our native Country, and for the maintenance of a peaceable estate; which (if it please God) wee will in time make innotorie, and manifest to the world; so that none that are or have binde themselves with us, shall have cause to dislike of our proceedings; but which is more, others both of the one and the other Religion shall have cause, to binde themselves with us, that so all hurtfull dissent, hitherto had and entertained, may be taken away, and good and perfect unity planted and upholden.

But we cannot refrain, but must let the Emperours, Princes, and all other Potentates, Electors, Princes and States, both within and without the Land; Understand, and be advertised, That it is manifestly and openly knowne unto all men; how that after the death of the high and mighty Prince our friendly loving Uncle, cousin, brother in law, brother, and gossip of famous memorie, John William, Duke of Culick, Cleare and Bergh, Earle vander Marcke, Ravensburgh and Poers, Baron of Ravenssen, and Chiffmilder, in the right of the wines of the Electors of Brandenburg; and the Palgrave Philip Lodowicke, and of either of them by themselves: the temporall Possessions of all the aforesaid Duchies, Earldomes, and Baronies not claim as prelatie; but freely, openly, and with the good will of most of the Countries and Colonies, is lawfully disengaged, and fallen unto them: and that with manifest protestation and Declaration by them made, that it is not done of covetousness, or wrongfully to withhold any man from being

being a Competitor therein if he hath any right there-
unto, but that both the said heires protest touching the
same, either for any part, as for the whole in generall;
unto every man that will not desist from their claime:
before an impartiall Judge, and in such Places and
places, where the cause properly (and according to the
authority of the holy Empire, and specially of the
Princes Electors) belongeth to be heard, to yeld good
sufficient, and true reasons and answers unto them
to maintaine their right; and which is more, if neede
be, to give sufficient Cautio de iudicio sibi & iudicatum
sibi, to prove their cause. And therefore doe altogether
seek to forese and prevent that no man shall hinder
nor molest them herein with unlawfull power and
forces, contrary to the Ordinances and Constitutions
of the holy Empire. And thus they have done.

Notwithstanding, their protestations and
lawfull right not once being considered nor respected,
in the Emperours Court, and in the Emperours most
Honourable Privie Councill, and authority; it is evi-
dently and earnestly practised and undertaken de facto
without due course of law and Justice by power; and
forcibly to dispossesse and utterly to expell the said
Princes; being lawfull heires therunto, from the
right and possession thereof. To the which end, not
only Leopoldus Arch-bishop of Austria; and Bishop
of Trevisburgh and Passau, suddenly and secretly
first hath taken and entred into the town of Sulick,
and the same hitherto holden and kept by force; but
hath proceeded further, and taketh hostage upon; and
forcibly to take certaine Gentlemans houses, villages,
and Scholes lying thereabouts; and to invade other
neighbour towncs and places next adjoining; to keepe
the Subjects thereof from their due obedience; and
threatning the Princes Electors the eight heires and
pos-

possessors thereof as also all those that with due obe-
dience and loyalty follow the Emperor have been with
the most undesired paine and consideration of con-
tempt (although in such a case never heard of before in
the holy Empire) if they resist him; all to the end (as it
is manifestly made known and testified unto us) that
these Counties may be unburthened, freed and cleane
from excommunication, as the States of the confes-
sion of Augsburg (e diametrical contrary to the religious
peace) are fairly called.

In regard therfore that our aforesaid brethren and
members with their Nobles (according to the force
and power of the Lawes and Ordinances of the holy
Empire, and to the peace of the Lawe) have desired
aids and assistance of us; and therewithall protested
that their intent never was, nor yet is to oppose them-
selves against the most high and puissant Imperiall
Majesty, as being their gentile Lord and Sovereigne
Prince: And so diligently considering all the circum-
stances, cannot otherwise know nor perceive, but that
they take into hands the accomplishing of the Ordi-
nances and Imperiall Lawes of the holy Empire, as
they themselves for the defence of their right in a pri-
nted pamphlet have solemnly and truly declared:
whereunto for this sake we referre you. We can-
not like wise thinke, imagine, nor once be persuaded,
that the Emperours Imperiall Majesties can have any
pleasure (how soe ever to procure any thing to his
and his Majesties proceedings) to have their courts against
the said Estates (especially being well informed of the
equity of the cause) considering that their representation
(speeches) was constantly in it, that his Majesties
bedes in all cases and by all the means he can, to
maintaine (not divide) all the princes Estates, but
so all princely members of the holy Empire, and also

thre Princes and Estates) in their dignities, honours, rights, priuiledges, powers and states, and to suffer them freely to holde, possesse and enjoy them, and for his owne part not to doe any thing to the contrary, nor yet to suffer nor endure the same to be done by any other whatsoever. And also if his Maiestie or any other whatsoever had any thing to say vnto the Princes, Electors, Princes, and Estates aforesaid, or any intent to doe any such thing; that (to cease all bypoxes, contentions and other Controuersies in the holy Empire, to maintaine peace and unity therein) he should suffer and permit them altogether & every one particularly, to be heard, and haue their causes adiudged before lawfull Judges, and in open Courts of Law; but by no means to permit them (in any such or other causes, vnder any pretence, or any mans name whatsoever, wherein they may haue Justice, and offer and submit themselves thereunto) to be robbed, taken, ransomed, burnt, fought withall, besieged, exposed, or in any waies over-run, spoiled and forcibly handled.

Therefore we haue thought it our duties, according to the faiths and fidelities, whereby one Territorie (in such like case) is bound and obliged to another, and by the force and power of the foresaid Ordinances of the holy Empire, to aide and assist one brother and fellow members as obedient Princes Electors of the Empire: but in no other manner, but & every one may lawfully proceede in his right, touching the principall matter without hinderance, and that they proceede not induely with vnlawfull power, against the aforesaid capitulation and Ordinances of the Empire, but that they may be suffered peaceably (in their possession, and to enjoy the benefits of the Law, for the due proceeding therein, as also without it (according to all equity) they ought to haue.

Therefore

Therefore our friendly request and motion vnto all Christian Princes and Common-wealths, but specially to all the Princes Electors, Princes and States of the holy Empire, is, not to take this our defensue, and naturall due assistance and ayde giuen at this time (as proceeding from Christian loue, fidelity and commiseration, and of it selfe being reasonable and very necessary) in any euill part, much lesse to hinder the same, but rather to shew all furtherance and assistance therein, and to put too their helping hands, to the end that all the aforesaid troubles may be ended, and a better, truer and brightter concord be held and maintained, among the States of the holy Empire. Which we in generall, and euery one by himselfe according to his estate in particular in the like cases and occasions will requite and acknowledge to our powers.

FINIS.

